

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 /083 W

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R 232147Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4408

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PLO, MX, XF

SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY PLO OFFICIALS

REF: MEXICO 5099

1. PLO REP MARWAN TAHBOUB (CORRECTION OF SPELLING IN REFTEL)
TOLD MEXICAN PRESS APRIL 22 THAT FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS
UNARMED PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN CONFRONTING "AN ARMY SUPPORTED
BY THE MOST POWERFUL NATION, WHICH IS THE U.S.," IN AN
APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE RECENT CLASHES BETWEEN ARABS AND
ISRAELIS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT
AN "IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST CONSPIRACY" WAS ATTEMPTING TO
MANIPULATE A LEBANESE PROBLEM IN ORDER TO PUT AN END TO
PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE EFFORTS BASED IN LEBANON. FINALLY,
TAHBOUB SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICES
IN MEXICO AND CUBA WOULD BE THE FORERUNNERS OF SIMILAR OFFICES
IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS.

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2. DURING A RECEPTION APRIL 22, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR EL

SHAARAWI TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PLO OFFICE HERE WILL HAVE A ONE-MAN STAFF AND WILL ENGAGE IN "INFORMATION ACTIVITIES BUT NOT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES." ANOTHER EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT INFORMS US THAT THE HEAD OF THE PLO OFFICE IN HAVANA, ISSAM SALEM, IS VISITING MEXICO IN ORDER TO PRESENT TAHBOUB TO GOM OFFICIALS AND LOCAL CONTACTS. SALEM WILL RETURN TO HAVANA APRIL 23. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER SOURCES, THAT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IS ASSISTING THE PLO TO ESTABLISH ITS OFFICE HERE.)

3. ON APRIL 22, HUSEM KHATIB, WHO IS ATTENDING THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION'S SPRING CONFERENCE HERE AS AN OBSERVER, CHARGED THAT THE USG HAS GIVEN ISRAEL \$2.2 BILLION IN MILITARY AID SO THAT ISRAEL WILL "BE READY AND OBEY THE U.S. WHEN THIS COUNTRY ORDERS THE CONQUEST OF NEW TERRITORIES." HE WARNED THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY OCCUR SOON BECAUSE "BETWEEN 20 AND 40 THOUSAND JEWA ARE CURRENTLY CAMPAIGNING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIES IN JERICHO AND THE GOLAN." KHATIB CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE DATE FOR OPENING THE PLO OFFICE HERE HAS NOT BEEN SET AND THAT HE (KHATIB) HOPED THAT PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT WOULD VISIT MEXICO SOON.

THOMPSON

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